



# AASA Annotated Writing Samples

## Grade 8



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## INTRODUCTION

The AASA ELA test will have a Writing unit and a Reading Unit 1 and Unit 2 for all grade levels. The structure of the sample test Writing test is similar to the actual AASA Writing test. Each Writing test will have one or more passages that relate to a prompt. Students will create a written response to the prompt. Students will not answer comprehension questions about the prompt. Scratch paper is permitted on both the Computer-Based Tests (CBT) and Paper-Based Tests (PBT) Writing tests in order for students to compose a rough draft prior to formulating a “final” copy in the paper test booklet or on the computer in TestNav.

**CBT**—On the CBT Writing tests students will have access to one or more passages that relate to a prompt, an electronic version of the Writing Guide and an area on the computer in TestNav to enter their “final” response.

**PBT**—On the PBT the students will have access to one or more passages that relate to a prompt, a print copy of the Writing Guide and a “final” copy area to write their response in their test booklet. On paper, the Writing Guide will also appear after the writing prompt and before the “final” copy area on the PBT. On the PBT, there will be three final copy pages with a line spacing of 0.375” for grades 3 and 4 (wide ruled) and 0.3” for grades 5–8 (college ruled).

Students are required to read passages associated with a topic then write a response based on a prompt. This type of text-based response requires students to use evidence from the passages as support for their ideas. This guide provides sample student responses which were scored using the AASA Writing Rubric. Each essay has annotations which explain the reasoning for the score the paper received as well as a description of the task and additional notes about scoring. Examples of student responses represent some of the various combinations of the score points across the scoring domains. As a basis for developing a common understanding of the scoring criteria, an annotation follows the response to explain the prominent characteristics of the response described in the rubric. These responses are not intended to provide a full spectrum of examples for each score point in each domain. Moreover, they do not necessarily represent the highest or lowest example of each score point in each domain.

For more information on the Writing Guides available to students and the rubrics used to score writing responses on AASA visit the ADE website under “AASA Writing Resources” [HERE](#).

## WRITING PROMPT

### The Nebra Sky Disk

Some scientists claim the Nebra Sky Disk is an artifact from the Bronze Age, while others claim it was created during the Iron Age.

Write a multiparagraph argumentative essay in which you support a claim about whether the Nebra Sky Disk was made in the Bronze Age or in the Iron Age.

Use information from the sources in your essay.

Manage your time carefully so that you can do the following actions:

- Read the sources.
- Plan your response.
- Write your response.
- Revise and edit your response.

Be sure to include the following tasks:

- Include a claim.
- Address counterclaims.
- Use evidence from multiple sources.
- Avoid overly relying on one source.

Your response should be in the form of a multiparagraph essay. Enter your response in the space provided.

# ARGUMENTATIVE-TEXT BASED WRITING RUBRIC



## Writing Rubric

### Argumentative Essay Writing Rubric (Grades 6–8)

Score	4	3	2	1
<b>Purpose, Focus, and Organization</b>	<p>The response is fully sustained and consistently focused within the purpose, audience, and task; and it has a clear claim and effective organizational structure creating coherence and completeness. The response includes most of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strongly maintained claim with little or no loosely related material</li> <li>Clearly addressed alternate or opposing claims<sup>1</sup></li> <li>Skillful use of a variety of transitional strategies to clarify the relationships between and among ideas</li> <li>Logical progression of ideas from beginning to end with a satisfying introduction and conclusion</li> <li>Appropriate style and tone established and maintained</li> </ul>	<p>The response is adequately sustained and generally focused within the purpose, audience, and task; and it has a clear claim and evident organizational structure with a sense of completeness. The response includes most of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintained claim, though some loosely related material may be present</li> <li>Alternate or opposing claims included but may not be completely addressed<sup>1</sup></li> <li>Adequate use of a variety of transitional strategies to clarify the relationships between and among ideas</li> <li>Adequate progression of ideas from beginning to end with a sufficient introduction and conclusion</li> <li>Appropriate style and tone established</li> </ul>	<p>The response is somewhat sustained within the purpose, audience, and task but may include loosely related or extraneous material; and it may have a claim with an inconsistent organizational structure. The response may include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Focused claim but insufficiently sustained or unclear</li> <li>Insufficiently addressed alternate or opposing claims<sup>1</sup></li> <li>Inconsistent use of transitional strategies with little variety</li> <li>Uneven progression of ideas from beginning to end with an inadequate introduction or conclusion</li> </ul>	<p>The response is related to the topic but may demonstrate little or no awareness of the purpose, audience, and task; and it may have no discernible claim and little or no discernible organizational structure. The response may include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Absent, confusing, or ambiguous claim</li> <li>Missing alternate or opposing claims<sup>1</sup></li> <li>Few or no transitional strategies</li> <li>Frequent extraneous ideas that impede understanding</li> <li>Too brief to demonstrate knowledge of focus or organization</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup>Not applicable to Grade 6

\*To receive a score in all categories the response must be in English, of a sufficient length, and address the prompt.

[UPDATED OCTOBER 2021]

## Argumentative Essay Writing Rubric (Grades 6–8)

Score	4	3	2	1
Evidence and Elaboration	<p>The response provides thorough, convincing, and credible support, citing evidence for the writer's claim that includes the effective use of sources, facts, and details. The response includes most of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Smoothly integrated, thorough, and relevant evidence, including precise references to sources</li> <li>• Effective use of a variety of elaborative techniques to support the claim, demonstrating an understanding of the topic and text</li> <li>• Clear and effective expression of ideas, using precise language</li> <li>• Academic and domain-specific vocabulary clearly appropriate for the audience and purpose</li> <li>• Varied sentence structure, demonstrating language facility</li> </ul>	<p>The response provides adequate support, citing evidence for the writer's claim that includes the use of sources, facts, and details. The response includes most of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generally integrated and relevant evidence from sources, though references may be general or imprecise</li> <li>• Adequate use of some elaborative techniques</li> <li>• Adequate expression of ideas, employing a mix of precise and general language</li> <li>• Domain-specific vocabulary generally appropriate for the audience and purpose</li> <li>• Some variation in sentence structure</li> </ul>	<p>The response provides uneven, cursory support/evidence for the writer's claim that includes partial use of sources, facts, and details. The response may include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weakly integrated evidence from sources; erratic or irrelevant references or citations</li> <li>• Repetitive or ineffective use of elaborative techniques</li> <li>• Imprecise or simplistic expression of ideas</li> <li>• Some use of inappropriate domain-specific vocabulary</li> <li>• Most sentences limited to simple constructions</li> </ul>	<p>The response provides minimal support/evidence for the writer's claim, including little if any use of sources, facts, and details. The response may include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimal, absent, erroneous, or irrelevant evidence or citations from the source material</li> <li>• Expression of ideas that is vague, unclear, or confusing</li> <li>• Limited and often inappropriate language or domain-specific vocabulary</li> <li>• Sentences limited to simple constructions</li> </ul>
Score	N/A	2	1	0
Conventions	<p>(2-point rubric begins at score point 2)</p>	<p>The response demonstrates an adequate command of basic conventions. The response may include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some minor errors in usage but no patterns of errors</li> <li>• Adequate use of punctuation, capitalization, sentence formation, and spelling</li> </ul>	<p>The response demonstrates a partial command of basic conventions. The response may include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Various errors in usage</li> <li>• Inconsistent use of correct punctuation, capitalization, sentence formation, and spelling</li> </ul>	<p>The response demonstrates a lack of command of conventions, with frequent and severe errors often obscuring meaning.</p>

\*To receive a score in all categories the response must be in English, of a sufficient length, and address the prompt.

[UPDATED OCTOBER 2021]

## SAMPLE STUDENT RESPONSES

## Grade 8

Student-1

Score Point 4/4/2

Artifacts tell us everything about our past. Ancient artifacts do the same, but on a much longer scale. This applies to many artifacts, including the coveted Nebraskan Sky Disk. Still, although coveted, this artifact's importance remains undetermined. Why? That is because it is still unknown whether the Disk dates back to the much earlier Bronze Age, rather than the later Iron Age. However, ever since new tests and studies have surfaced, it has become much clearer that The Nebraskan Disk is from the Bronze Age.

First of all, the obvious cannot be ignored; the disk's material makeup. A recent study confirmed that the disk is made of the copper-tin combination that creates bronze. (A Tale of Two Ages, paragraph one). Bronze, of course being more popular during the Bronze Age, shows the obvious. Additionally, allegedly, "matching metal traces were detected in the dirt where the disk was supposedly located." (A Tale of Two Ages, para 3) This spot, which also



## Grade 8

Student-1

Score Point 4/4/2

With other Bronze Age items, also show that the disk has to be from the Bronze Age. Even obvious factors like these can go a long way to proving the disk's authenticity to the Bronze Age.

When determining the age of a metal, some factors stand out, others require something much like an autopsy. One not-so-complicated factor to determining The Nebrasky Disk's age was looking at other artifacts around it. In this case, Bronze-Age weapons and jewelry (The Discovery of the Nebrasky Disk, para 2). Items like these, who can be precisely dated, to the Bronze Age, show that the disk was around a good amount of items buried at around the same time. Other not so obvious features that support the disk being found around these artifacts, include inspecting the disk for damage, and what's around the site that caused it. After testing this, scientists concluded that... "damage done to the disk during its excavation matches the condition



## Grade 8

Student-1

Score Point 4/4/2

of the disk itself.!! (The discovery of the Nebrasky Disk, Para 3). By determining that the damages to the disk match those described at the excavation, it secures that the disk was found around the other Bronze Age items. Now that it's proven that the disk was found around other Bronze Age items, the only possibility is that The Nebrasky Disk is from the Bronze Age.

Even with this much resounding evidence, people still believe that the disk is from the Iron Age. They say the people who found the disk lied about its location. This, however, is false, because the excavators of the disk took an oath of honesty to tell the truth of the disk's location (The Discovery of the Nebrasky Disk, para 3).

Almost as clear that the disk is made of Bronze, it is clear that the disk's age resides in the Bronze Age. No matter the case, its importance to understanding our past is matched by none. Just another reason to continue our search for understanding of the past, and its amazing artifacts.

## Grade 8

## Student-1 Annotation

## Score Point 4/4/2

**Purpose, Focus, and Organization - Score Point: 4**

This response is fully sustained and consistently focused within the purpose, audience, and task. The claim is clear from the first paragraph and is strongly maintained through the body, then restated again in the conclusion (*Almost as clear that the disk is made of Bronze, it is clear that the disks age resides in the Bronze Age*). The organizational structure is clear, and effectively creates coherence and completeness. Ideas progress logically throughout the response, building a thorough and convincing argument (*Other no so obvious features that support the disk being found around these artifacts, include inspecting the disk for damage, and what's around the site that caused it. After testing this, scientists concluded that..."damage done to the disk during its excavation matches the condition of the disk itself*). Transitional strategies are used skillfully both to join paragraphs together (*First of all, Even with this, Almost as clear*) and to link ideas within larger topics (*However, Additionally, In this case, By, Now that*). A counterclaim is introduced and addressed in the third body paragraph (*Even with this much resounding evidence, people still think the disk is from the Iron Age. They say the people who found the disk lied about its location. This, however, is false, because the excavators of the disk took an oath of honesty to tell the truth of the disk's location*). An appropriate style and tone are established early and maintained throughout the response (*Artifacts tell us everything about our past. Ancient artifacts do the same, but on a much larger scale*).

**Evidence and Elaboration - Score Point: 4**

This response provides thorough, convincing and credible support, citing evidence for the writer's claim that the Nebra Sky Disk is from the Bronze Age. Sources, facts, and details are used effectively to support that claim, and most are closely based on the text. Evidence drawn from the sources is relevant, thorough, and smoothly integrated (*A recent study confirmed that the disk is made of the copper-tin combination that creates bronze [A Take of Two Ages, paragraph one]*). Elaboration is used effectively to support this claim, including the use of dialogue (*Still, although coveted, this artifacts importance remains undetermined. Why? That is because it is still unknown whether the Disk dates back to the much earlier Bronze age*), text-based evidence, and explanation (*By determining that the damages to the disk match those described at the excavation, it secures that the disk was found around the other Bronze Age items*). Precise language clearly and effectively expresses ideas (*When determining the age of a metal, some factors stand out, others require something much like an autopsy*). Varied sentence structures, demonstrating language facility, are present.

**Conventions - Score Point: 2**

The response demonstrates an adequate command of basic conventions. Capitalization, sentence formation, and usage are generally correct. Minor errors occur in spelling (*illedgedly, jewelry*), and in punctuation, with a couple missing apostrophes, however there is no systematic pattern of errors.

## Grade 8

Student-2

Score Point 4/4/2

Archaeology is a very important study for most of today's discoveries. Archaeologists search the world looking for rare artifacts that helped affect the evolution of many tools that we use today. Scientists will do research on an object for many years to figure out where it came from and how old it is. Although, this is not the case for an old artifact called the Nebra Sky Disk. Scientists are constantly fighting over whether the Nebra Sky Disk is from the Bronze Age or the Iron Age. Within the educational sources, A Tale of Two Ages, The Discovery of The Nebra Sky Disk, and An Age to Be Determined, the Nebra Sky Disk is shown to be from the Bronze Age.

In the informational source, of A Tale of Two Ages, it argues that "The individuals who made the discovery claim the disk was found with the other items in the pit" <sup>(ToTA 2)</sup>. The scientists said that the other items may have been put with the object to trick people into thinking the disk was very old. This is most likely not the case, because the disk "... had been in place for thousands of years, leaking metals into the soil" <sup>(ToTA 3)</sup>. Since, the object had been leaking metals into the ground, it must have been very old, perhaps from the Bronze Age. Though it is also argued that "The imagery on the disk is very unusual for the Bronze Age. It much more closely matches art from the later Iron Age" <sup>(ToTA 4)</sup>. Although, the art of the disk is unusual, it doesn't mean that it is impossible. The art type is a very unresourceful detail to this claim, because art comes in all shapes or sizes and it's not impossible for someone to make an art piece like the night sky. Supporting that the Nebra Sky Disk is from the Bronze Age.

## Grade 8

Student-2

Score Point 4/4/2

Inside the educational source *The Discovery of the Nebra Sky Disk*, it is argued that the men who discovered the disk "Did they place the disk among those items in hopes of making more money?" (DoNSD 2). The men who found the disk, Henry Westphal and Mario Renner, uncovered this object in Germany where there was "... a law mandates that discovered artifacts belong to the government" (DoNSD 3). The sources helps show that, it wouldn't make sense for the men to place the disk with other Bronze Age items, if it was going to go to the government anyways. The two men also had great credibility, for the reason of that "... details in the men's claims about the damage done to the disk during its excavation matches the condition of the disk itself..." (DoNSD 3). This shows that they would lie the men did not lie before about its case so it wouldn't logically in any way make sense about what they found the disk with. In the most likely case that the men didn't lie, it would further prove that the disk is from the Bronze Age.

Within the informational source *An Age to Be Determined*, it is argued that "... the holes punched along the edges were too perfect for a Bronze Age piece... the symbols on the disk were like nothing else from the Bronze Age... the design was very similar to objects from the Iron Age..." (A+BD 2). These claims are all observed and researched about, but it includes too much qualitative data and not enough data regarding science. When science was used to examine the soil upon the disk it was shown that "The soil contained traces of gold and copper, which would have been expected if the Nebra Disk had been buried in that

## Grade 8

Student-2

Score Point 4/4/2

location for thousands of years<sup>(A+BD3)</sup> (Y). This is more evidence that the disk was there longer than what just  
 the art upon the disk shows the human eye. Through more recent studies with more developed technology  
 at a different location...<sup>(A+BD4)</sup>  
 it was found that the disk is "originally buried". It doesn't mean that the Nebron Disk had been placed  
 with other Bronze Age objects, rather it may<sup>be the case that</sup> it was found with those objects before and reburied  
 later on. Shown within some of the supported quantitative data the Nebron Disk should be from  
 the Bronze Age.

## Grade 8

## Student-2 Annotation

## Score Point 4/4/2

**Purpose, Focus, and Organization - Score Point: 4**

This response is fully sustained and consistently focused within the purpose, audience, and task. The claim that the Nebra Sky Disk is from the Bronze Age is stated in the satisfying introduction, and is strongly maintained through the body paragraphs that are grouped by topic, leading up to the skillful conclusion that both summarizes and presents findings (*In Tale of Two Ages, it is shown that the Nebra Sky Disk had been in place for years putting metals into the ground supporting that it is very old artifact*). Ideas progress logically throughout the response (*Through more recent studies with more developed technology, it was found that the disk was buried at a different location [ATBD 4]. It doesn't mean that the Nebra Sky Disk had been placed with other Bronze Age objects, rather it may be the case that it was found with those objects before and reburied later on*). The entire organizational structure is evident and effective, creating coherence and completeness. A number of counterclaims are acknowledged and addressed, strengthening the argument (*The scientists said that the other items may have been put with the object to trick people into thinking that the disk was very old. This is most likely not the case because the disk had been in place for thousands of years, leaking metals into the soil [ToTA3]*). The counterclaims and rebuttals themselves further strengthen the claim that the disk is from the Bronze Age. Progression is solid and crisp, with most ideas connecting logically and fluidly.

**Evidence and Elaboration - Score Point 4**

This response provides thorough, convincing and credible support, citing evidence for the writer's claim that includes the effective use of sources, facts and details. Evidence drawn from sources is smoothly integrated, thorough and relevant, with precise references to sources included (*"The imagery on the disk is very unusual for the Bronze Age. It much more closely matches art from the later Iron Age Again [ToTA 4]*). A variety of elaborative techniques is used effectively to support this claim, including the use of text-based evidence, opinions that build on the student's ideas, and explanation (*Although the art of the disk is unusual, it doesn't mean that it is impossible. The art type is a very unresourceful detail to this claim because art comes in all shapes and sizes and it's not impossible for someone to make an art piece like the night sky*). Ideas in this response are clearly and effectively expressed in precise language (*informational source, great credibility, quantitative data, excavation*). Varied sentence structures, demonstrating language facility, are present.

**Conventions - Score Point: 2**

The response demonstrates an adequate command of basic conventions. Minor errors occur in punctuation, with a misplaced or unnecessary comma, however there is no systematic pattern of errors.



## Grade 8

Student-3

Score Point 4/4/2

Many have argued over the worth of the Nebra Sky Disk. Some say that it was created in the Bronze Age, and others say in the Iron Age, but neither is officially concluded. The argument of when it was made would decide its worth, so the finders and museum collectors of it have an incentive to have people believe the disk is from the Bronze Age. This causes people to be skeptical of those who say it was made then. Even though people don't fully believe, if one uses the evidence scientists have collected over the years, it is clear that the Nebra Sky Disk was made during the Bronze Age.

Proof that the Nebra Sky Disk was made during the Bronze Age can be indicated by the whereabouts and condition of the object. In the dirt this was located, there are traces of a Bronze Age object, as Source 1 states, "[...] matching metal traces were detected in the dirt where the disk was supposedly located" (Source 1). There is no other

## Grade 8

Student-3

Score Point 4/4/2

way that these specific, a thousand year old traces could have been made unless it's from the Bronze Age. Even though "[...] the design was very very similar to objects from the Iron Age" (Source 3), the fact is that people "[...] found it among a stash of buried Bronze Age weapons and bracelets" (Source 3). The Disk may have felt similar to the Iron Age's, but the Nebra Sky Disk was found with other items from the Bronze Age, and it also only left markings that indicate it is from that time. Even with the evidence of its location, there is more proof from its finders.

Henry Westphal and Mario Renner, the men who discovered the Nebra Sky Disk, demonstrate ~~how~~ how the Disk is more likely from the Bronze Age. They may be looters, but their credibility is shown by how "details in the men's claims about damage done to the disk during excavation matches the condition of the disk itself [...]" (Source 2). Damage they have done to the disk may have decreased their gain in money, but they confessed anyway.

## Grade 8

Student-3

Score Point 4/4/2

demonstrating how they are not incentivized by money they could have gained. Westphal and Renner were also in Germany, so "[...] anyone who finds ancient relics is not allowed to keep or sell them [...]" (Source 2), which disregards how "Scholars argue it is more likely the disk was found elsewhere, and that looters only claimed to have found it <sup>with the other items</sup> because this would increase the disk's value significantly" (Source 1). They admit they damaged the disk and handed it to the government instead of selling it somewhere else to gain money, showing these 2 have nothing to gain and no reason to lie about where they found it. Westphal and Renner not gaining money from this proves they were telling the truth, and the disk was, in fact, from the Bronze Age.

The Nebra Sky disk has more evidence it is from the Bronze Age than the Iron Age. Some may continue to doubt, but there is more evidence showing it can not be from the Iron Age. The founders gain no money, so their words are trustworthy. The surroundings of where the disk was found express that it can only be from the Bronze Age. The combined proof of the founders' honesty and the condition of the disk's surroundings emphasize the Nebra Sky Disk was found during the Bronze Age.

## Grade 8

## Student-3 Annotation

## Score Point 4/4/2

**Purpose, Focus, and Organization - Score Point: 4**

The context for the argument of over the Nebra Sky Disk's origins is offered in the first sentence (*Many have argued over the worth of the Nebra Sky Disk. Some say it was created in the Bronze Age, and others say in the Iron Age*), setting up the analysis that leads to the claim that the disk is from the Bronze Age (*Even though people don't fully believe it, if one uses the evidence scientists have collected over the years, it is clear that the Nebra Sky Disk was made in the Bronze Age*). The claim is strongly maintained through two body paragraphs that investigate the facts and demonstrate the persuasiveness of the claim, both in the body of the response and later in the conclusion that sums up the investigation into the disk's origins (*The combined proof of the founders' honesty and the condition of the Disk's surroundings emphasize the Nebra Sky Disk was found during the Bronze Age*). Ideas progress logically throughout the response, building on the idea as the facts add up to show what age the disk is from (*Damage they have done to the disk may have decreased that gain in money, but they confessed anyway demonstrating how they are not incentivized by money they could have gained*). The entire organizational structure is evident and effective, creating coherence and completeness. A counterclaim is acknowledged and addressed, strengthening the argument (*The Disk may have art similair to the Iron Age's, but the Nebra Sky Disk was found with other items from the Bronze Age, and it also only left makings that indicate it is from that time*). The tone of an investigation that leads to a persuasive conclusion is appropriate and compelling.

**Evidence and Elaboration - Score Point: 4**

This response provides thorough, convincing and credible support, citing evidence for the writer's claim that includes the effective use of sources, facts and details. Evidence drawn from sources is smoothly integrated, thorough and relevant, with references to sources included (*In the dirt this was located, there are traces of a Bronze Age object, as Source 1 states, "[...] matching metal traces were detected in the dirt where the disk was supposedly located" [Source 1]*). A variety of elaborative techniques is used effectively to support this claim, including the use of text-based evidence, analysis that builds through investigation (*They admit they damaged the disk and handed it to the government instead of selling it somewhere else to gain money, showing these 2 have nothing to gain and no reason to lie about where they found it; Some may continue to doubt*), opinions that build on the student's ideas (*They may be looters, but their credibility is shown by how "details in the men's claims...matches the condition of the disk itself" [Source 2]. Damange they have done to the disk may have decreased their gain in money, but they confessed anyway*), and explanation. The precise language clearly and effektivly expesses ideas (*The argument of when it was made would decide its worth; they are not incentivized; nothing to gain; some may continue to doubt; The founders gain no money*). Varied sentence structures, demonstrating language facility, are present.

**Conventions - Score Point: 2**

The response demonstrates an adequate command of basic conventions. Usage is consistently proper, as are punctuation, capitalization and sentence formation. There are a few minor lapses in spelling, but no systematic pattern of errors is demonstrated.

## Grade 8

Student-4

Score Point 4/3/2

Scientists across the globe have been debating whether the Nebra Sky Dish was crafted during the Bronze age or during the Iron age. The answer to this decade-long argument is simply, the Nebra Sky Dish was made in the Iron age.

Found in 1922 by two looters in Germany, the Nebra Sky Dish was believed to be an incredible find. If it was from the Bronze age, it would've been the "oldest known object to represent the night sky." (A tale of Two Ages, paragraph 1). Undoubtedly, this would immediately make the price of the relic increase, and the looters knew that. So, they moved it to a place abundant with other Bronze-aged artifacts. Scientists considered this possibility as well, and so the German museum in possession of the Nebula Sky Dish sent



## Grade 8

Student-4

Score Point 4/3/2

Soil samples into a lab for further study. These soil studies came back with results in favor of the museum. "The soil contained traces of gold and copper," (An Age to be Determined paragraph 3). However, can we trust the museum in custody of the relic to not be biased? They could've taken samples of soil from other areas of similar findings, after all they are a museum. Not only that, but a study done in 2022 shows that those tests done in the previous study were inaccurate. "The soil analysis... originally buried at a different location." (An Age to be Determined paragraph 4). The 2022 study supports the theory that the museum sent false samples.

However, there is evidence supporting the idea that the Nebula Sky Dish was from the Bronze age as well. German Law



## Grade 8

Student-4

Score Point 4/3/2

states that it is illegal to buy or sell any artifacts found within the borders of Germany. This is because they consider the artifacts as property of the German state. "Since anyone who finds ancient relics is not allowed to keep or sell them, why would these men lie about where it was found?" (the discovery of the Nebula Sky Dish paragraph 3). This argument is a major reason as to why scientists still can't decide whether or not the Nebula Sky Dish really was from the Bronze age.

The Nebula Sky Dish was an outstanding finding, and whether it was from the Bronze or Iron age will remain unknown. However, a lot of the evidence does suggest it was made in the Iron age. Although the evidence states it was crafted in the Iron age, it will be admired until the end of time.

## Grade 8

## Student-4 Annotation

## Score Point 4/3/2

**Purpose, Focus, and Organization - Score Point: 4**

This response is fully sustained and consistently focused within the purpose, audience, and task of arguing that the Nebra Sky Disk is from the Iron Age. The organizational structure is clear, and effectively creates coherence and completeness. A counterclaim is introduced (*However, there is evidence supporting the idea that the Nebola Sky Disk was from the Bronze Age as well; Scientists considered this possibility as well*) and clearly addressed (*However, can we trust the museum in custody of the relic to not be biased? They could've taken samples of soil from other areas...*). Ideas progress logically throughout the response (*If it was from the Bronze Age, it would've been the "oldest known object to represent the night sky." [A Tale of Two Ages, paragraph 1]. Undoubtedly, this would immediately make the price of the relic increase, and the looters knew that*). Transitional strategies are used skillfully to link ideas within larger topics (*If it was, Undoubtedly, So, However, Not only that, Since, Although*). An appropriate style and tone are established early and maintained throughout the response.

**Evidence and Elaboration - Score Point: 3**

This response provides adequate support, citing evidence for the writer's claim that includes the use of sources, facts and details (. Evidence is generally integrated with references (*"The soil contained traces of gold and copper," [An Age to be Determined paragraph 3]*). Adequate use of some elaborative techniques (interpretation of information drawn from the text, for example) is brief, but present in a few instances (*Not only that, but a study done in 2020 shows that those tests done in the previous study were inaccurate*). The response adequately expresses ideas, implying mostly precise language (*Undoubtedly, this would make the price of the relic increase; This argument is a major reason as to why scientists still can't decide;*). Vocabulary is appropriate for the audience and purpose, and sentence structures are varied.

**Conventions - Score Point: 2**

The response demonstrates an adequate command of basic conventions. Minor errors occur in spelling and the continued use of "Nebula" for Nebra, however, there is no systematic pattern of errors.

## Grade 8

Student-5

Score Point 3/3/2

A very interesting metal disk found Underground in Nebra, Germany has caused Scientists to question their facts. A small metal disk, imprinted with stars, a moon and a sun, called "The Nebra Sky Disk" was found by looters in Nebra, Germany. At first, Scientists thought the disk was from the Bronze Age, but now many Scientists believe its from the Iron Age. There are many reasons both could be true, but I believe the Nebra Sky Disk was created in the Bronze Age.

Many times, although it may be suspicious, you have to take people's word. In this case, Henry Westphal and Maria Renner, have a lot of evidence to prove that their finding is from the Bronze Age. First, many other artifacts that were found with the disk are definitely from the Bronze Age. Also, "in Germany, a law

## Grade 8

Student-5

Score Point 3/3/2

mandates that discovered artifacts belong to the government!" What would they get from lying anyway? Lastly, the men were under oath when they told where the artifact had been found, and all the other information. This means, if they were caught lying they would be arrested.

Many people say that the two men could've come up with a very intricate lie about this artifact. There is a lot of evidence supporting the fact it might be from the Iron Age. For example "the symbols on the disk were nothing else from the Bronze Age." or "the looters only claimed to have found it with the other items because this would increase the disks value significantly." Personally, I think with good evidence, both

## Grade 8

Student-5

Score Point 3/3/2

these claims could be correct, but every single day, new, crazy things are being found. Just because this disk wasn't expected, doesn't mean it was a fraud.

Overall, the Nebra Sky Disk is a very interesting artifact that definitely breaks expectations. There is a lot of evidence that proves the Nebra Sky Disk is from both the Iron Age and the Bronze Age, but I believe that it is from the Bronze Age.

<b>Grade 8</b>
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**Student-5 Annotation****Score Point 3/3/2****Purpose, Focus, and Organization - Score Point: 3**

This response is adequately sustained and generally focused within the purpose, audience and task of making the claim that the Nebra Sky Disk is from the Bronze Age. The claim is clearly stated (*I believe the Nebra Sky Disk was created in the Bronze Age*) and maintained, and an organizational structure is evident, leading to a sense of completeness. A counterclaim is included (*Many people say that the two men could have come up with a very intricate lie about this artifact. There is a lot of evidence supporting the fact that it might be from the iron age*) and addressed (*Just because this disk wasn't expected doesn't mean it was a fraud*). Transitional strategies are used adequately to clarify relationships between and among ideas (*At first, In this case, First, Also, Lastly, For example, Overall*). Ideas progress adequately and are consistently developed. The introduction and conclusion are sufficient, with some reasoning that supports the claim made in the intro and reiterated in the conclusion (*There is a lot of evidence that the Nebra Sky Disk is from both the Iron Age and the Bronze Age, but I believe it's from the Bronze Age*).

**Evidence and Elaboration - Score Point: 3**

This response provides adequate support, including quoted evidence for the writer's claim that includes the use of sources, facts, and details. Some evidence from sources is integrated directly into discussion (*For example: "the symbols on the disk were nothing else from the Bronze Age" or For example... "the looters only claimed to have found it with other items because this would decrease the disks value significantly"*). Elaborative techniques, including explanation are used adequately (*Many times, although it may be suspicious, you have to take people's word; This means, if they were caught lying, they would be arrested*). The response adequately expresses ideas, employing mostly precise language (*Lastly, they were under oath when they told where the artifact had been found*). Vocabulary is appropriate for the audience and purpose, and sentence structures are varied.

**Conventions - Score Point: 2**

The response demonstrates an adequate command of basic conventions. Usage, capitalization, punctuation, and sentence formation are all consistently correct with few errors. A few spelling errors occur (*intracate, definetly, exidence*), but no systematic pattern is demonstrated.



## Grade 8

Student-6

Score Point 3/3/2

The Nebra Sky Disk is a big mystery when it comes to its age. Whether it is from the Bronze age, or the Iron age has been debated by many different scientists. And I believe it comes from the Bronze age.

The Nebra Sky Disk was discovered by two people who were searching for buried treasure, which was also found along with other items that had been buried in the dirt. The reason I believe it was made in the Bronze age is in source 2 it says, "Westphal and Renner swore under oath in a court of law that the Nebra Sky Disk was found with known Bronze age weapons" (The Discovery of the Nebra Sky Disk, 3). This shows that there is a big possibility of the Nebra Sky Disk being from the Bronze age, just like the items found with it.

There is still lots of proof that the Nebra Sky

## Grade 8

Student-6

Score Point 3/3/2

Disk is from the Bronze age that make my opinion more accurate. For example, in source 1 it mentions, "Additionally, matching metal traces were detected in the dirt where the disk was supposedly located" (A Tale of Two Ages, 3). It also states that Scientist believe that it was there for thousands of years while it leaked metal into the soil. And I believe those thousands of years go back to the Bronze age.

Many people also believe that the disk came from the Iron age, and I understand why. For example in source 3 it points out, "They argued that the design was very similar to objects from the iron age." (An Age to Be Determined, 1). But people change and have new ideas which could have been why materials or designs in it were different. And there are many more beliefs that the Neba Sky

## Grade 8

Student-6

Score Point 3/3/2

Disk is from the Iron age that could be proved wrong with the evidence provided.

In conclusion I believe that the Nebra Sky Disk found by looters was made in the Bronze age.

## Grade 8

## Student-6 Annotation

## Score Point 3/3/2

**Purpose, Focus, and Organization - Score Point: 3**

This response is adequately sustained and generally focused within the purpose, audience, and task. The claim is clearly stated in the introduction (*And I believe it comes from the Bronze age*) and is consistently developed. An organizational structure is evident, leading to a sense of completeness. Counterclaims are included (*Many people also believe that the disk came from the Iron age. I understand why. For example...they argued that the design was very similar to objects in the Iron age*) and addressed (*But people change and have new ideas which could have been why materials or designs in it were different*). A variety of transitional strategies are employed to clarify the relationships between and among ideas (*Additionally, This shows, It also, But people, In conclusion*). Ideas progress adequately throughout the response (*Westphal and Renner swore under oath in a court of law that the Nebra Sky Disk was found with known Bronze age weapons [The Discovery of the Nebra Sky Disk, 3]. This shows that there is a big possibility of the Nebra Sky Disk being from the Bronze age, just like the items found with it*). The response establishes an appropriate style and tone (*The Nebra Sky Disk is a big mystery when it comes to its age*).

**Evidence and Elaboration - Score Point: 3**

The response provides adequate support, citing evidence for the writer's claim that includes the use of cited sources, facts, and details. Evidence from sources is generally integrated with references (*Additionally, matching metal traces were detected in the dirt where the disk was supposedly located [A Tale of Two Ages, 3]*), though much of the information quoted from the text is general. Elaborative techniques, including explanation and interpretation are used adequately (*It also states that scientists believe that it was there for thousands of years. And I believe those thousands of years go back to the Bronze age*). Expression of ideas is adequate, including a combination of precise (*I believe those thousands of years go back to the Bronze Age*) and general (*this shows there is a big possibility of the Nebra Sky Disk being from the Bronze Age*) language. Sentence structures show some variation.

**Conventions - Score Point: 2**

The response demonstrates an adequate command of basic conventions. Capitalization, punctuation and sentence formation are generally correct, while there are a few minor errors in usage and spelling (*their* [for there], *scientist* [for scientists]).

## Grade 8

Student-7

Score Point 2/2/2

The Nebraska Sky Disk was considered to be made in the bronze age, but I think it was made in the Iron age. It is 3600 years old and it's made of metal which has something to do with Iron. "Then holes on the disk was also too perfect for a bronze age". Another thing is the symbols on the disk wasn't something they have seen on a bronze age weapon/tool. The strength on the disk is another thing, the bronze age is decently strong but it would make a more reasonable thing to believe it's in the Iron age, just the way it looks feels and shaped.

It's a 12 inch disk the



## Grade 8

Student-7

Score Point 2/2/2

the bronze age couldn't of perfected.  
the holes in a 12 inch disk. The 2  
men who found it claimed they found it  
in a stash of old bronze age weapons  
but it could of just randomly end up there.  
Anything could of happened for the disk to  
end up in the bronze age stash. It was  
buried for thousands of years anything could  
of happened. It could of been misplaced or  
they left it there maybe fighting something  
off and barely getting away cause they  
threw the disk and fan.

But I believe it was from the  
Iron age just the way it looks, the way  
they made it, the perfect holes. There is  
just alot of evidence that I lead that  
shows it's from the Iron age.



## Grade 8

## Student-7 Annotation

## Score Point 2/2/2

**Purpose, Focus, and Organization - Score Point: 2**

This response is somewhat sustained within purpose, audience, and task. The claim that the Nebra Sky Disk was made in the Iron Age is stated in the first sentence but is insufficiently sustained. Counterclaims are offered up (*The 2 men who found it claimed they found it in a stash of old bronze age weapons*) and, in this case, partially addressed (*Anything could of happened for the disk to end up in the bronze age stash*). Without many transitions, the response feels somewhat more like a listing of disconnected reasons (*Another thing is the symbols on the disk was'nt something they have seen on a bronze age weapon/tool. The strength of the disk is another thing*) with uneven progression.

**Evidence and Elaboration - Score Point: 2**

The response provides uneven, cursory support for the idea that the Nebra Sky Disk is from the Iron Age, with partial use of quoted sources, facts and details (*"The holes on the disk was also too perfect for a bronze age"*). Note that this detail is quoted, indicating that it comes from a source, thereby meeting the requirement that the student cite or point to sources. Use of elaborative techniques is repetitive (*Anything could have happened for the disk; It was buried for thousands of years anything could of happened*). Expression of ideas is simplistic, and sentence structure is limited.

**Conventions - Score Point: 2**

The response demonstrates an adequate command of basic conventions. Capitalization, sentence formation, and spelling are generally correct, while there are a few minor errors in punctuation and usage (*"could of"* a couple times when it should be *"could have"*).

## Grade 8

Student-8

Score Point 2/2/2

Personally, I think that the Nebra Sky Disk was made in the Bronze Age. I believe this because, if it were to be made in the Iron Age, why was it made of Bronze? Also in paragraph 3, source 1, it says "Scientists believe this means the disk had been in place for thousands of years," Not only was it in the ground for thousands of years, it was also found with other bronze weapons and bracelets, stated in paragraph 2, source 2. There are also some facts on the other side of the argument. Those facts are: "the holes on the disk are too perfect to be from the bronze age." That was a good thought, but it's not right, and here is why: there are artists like da Vinci, Picasso, and Michelangelo that make perfect art projects that doesn't mean that they aren't from their time right? So that fact is invalid.

<b>Grade 8</b>
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**Student-8 Annotation****Score Point 2/2/2****Purpose, Focus, and Organization - Score Point: 2**

This response is somewhat but insufficiently sustained within the purpose, audience, and task of supporting the claim that the Nebra Sky Disk was made in the Bronze Age. A few transitions connect ideas (*Also, Not only*), while other ideas don't progress as easily. A short introduction presents the claim (*Personally, I think that the Nebra Sky Disk was made in the Bronze Age*). A counterclaim is put forth (*There are also some facts on the other side of the argument. Those facts are: "the holes on the disk are to perfect to be from the bronze age."*). The conclusion is inadequate in this response, contributing to the uneven progression of ideas.

**Evidence and Elaboration - Score Point: 2**

The response provides uneven, cursory support for the writer's claim that includes partial use of cited sources, facts and details (*it was also found with other bronze age weapons and bracelets, stated in paragraph 2, source 2*). Elaborative techniques are mostly ineffective, though there are a couple places where we see effective elaboration (*That was a good thought but it's not right, and here is why: there are artists like Da vinci, Picasso, Michaelangelo that make perfect art projects that doesn't mean they aren't from their time right? So that fact is invalid*). In this brief response, we see aspects of different score points, but here the best EE fit is the 2, though we see the promise of the PFO and EE 3 in parts of the response. With holistic scoring, we can see these aspects of different score points in a given response, and then we determine where the response best fits, according to the rubric.

**Conventions - Score Point: 2**

The response demonstrates an adequate command of basic conventions. Capitalization, sentence formation, and punctuation are generally correct, while there are a few minor usage and spelling errors (*the holes on the disk are to [should be too] perfect to be from the bronze age*).

## Grade 8

Student-9

Score Point 2/1/2

The Nebra sky disk is a round metal disk made of bronze. The scientific community is not in complete agreement about the age of the Nebra sky disk. Some believe it was made in the Bronze age. And others believe it was made in the iron age.

I think that it was made in the iron age. Mostly because the only evidence that they have that it could have been made in the Bronze age is because, researchers at a museum in Germany believe that it was made in the bronze age. When it was first discovered scientist believed that it was made in the Bronze age because, the disk had been in place for thousands of years leaking metals into the soil therefore they believe that the Nebra sky Disk was made in the Bronze age.

## Grade 8

Student-9

Score Point 2/1/2

I believe that it was made in the iron age because, the iron and steel tools were much stronger so, it would be easier. Also the imagery on the disk is very unusual for the Bronze age. It also matches art from the late Iron age. And also archaeologist argue that prior soil studies indicating authenticity are inaccurate therefore I believe the Nebra Sky disk was made in the Iron age.

## Grade 8

## Student-9 Annotation

## Score Point 2/1/2

**Purpose, Focus, and Organization - Score Point: 2**

This response is somewhat sustained within purpose, audience, and task. The claim that the Nebra Sky Disk is from the Iron Age is clearly stated in the first body paragraph (*I think that it was made in the Iron Age*). Organizational structure is partially apparent, with an introduction, followed by a body where some ideas connect through somewhat repetitive transitions (*Also, the imagery is; It also; And also*). A counterclaim is present (*the only evidence they have that it could have been made in the Bronze age is because researchers at a museum in Germany believe that it was made in the Bronze age*). The conclusion is inadequate.

**Evidence and Elaboration - Score Point: 1**

The response provides uneven, cursory support for the claim that the Nebra Sky Disk is from the Iron Age, including partial use of facts and details (*And also archaeologist argue that prior soil studies indicating authenticity are inaccurate*) and no use of cited sources. Some of the support is relevant, but without clear reference to the use of the texts, the response is ineligible for a higher score.

**Conventions - Score Point: 2**

The response demonstrates an adequate command of basic conventions. Capitalization, sentence formation and spelling are mostly correct. There are a couple minor errors in usage. In terms of punctuation, there are a couple unnecessary commas (*...the only evedence that they have that it could have meen made in the Bronze age is because, researchers at a museuem*), but not enough to demonstrate a systematic pattern.



## Grade 8

Student-10

Score Point 2/1/1

If you like archaeologie you might know of curtain ages such as the bronze age and iron age, there was an artifact called the Nebra disk. Some belive it's from the bronze age and some belive it's from the iron age. However it is not from the iron age and heres why.

There were archaeologists that found the Nebra disk and they both said that it was from the bronze age, typicly things from the bronze are more valuable but people say they only said that to resell it for more money but they leagaly can't they also they swore in the court of law.

People say that when the Nebra

## Grade 8

Student-10

Score Point 2/1/1

Disk was found it was in a sash  
of bronze weapons.

In 2020 Scientists discovered that  
the Nebra Disk is in the bronze  
age.

If that isn't enough to convince  
you that the Nebra disk was in the  
bronze age then I don't know  
what is.

## Grade 8

## Student-10 Annotation

## Score Point 2/1/1

**Purpose, Focus, and Organization - Score Point: 2**

This response is somewhat sustained within the purpose audience and task. It begins with an introduction to the Nebra Disk and the question of which age it's from, followed by a claim (*However it is not from the iron age and heres why*), but the claim is insufficiently sustained. The ideas themselves are there, but they don't connect well, making progression somewhat difficult to follow (*There were archaeologists that found the Nebra disk and they both said that it was from the bronze age, typicly things from the bronze age are more valuble but people say they only said that to resell it*). A counterclaim is insufficiently addressed (*Some belive it's from the iron age*). Transitional strategies lack variety, and there is an uneven progression of ideas from beginning to end. The introduction and brief conclusion are really the strongest parts of the organizational plan, with the introduction setting up the two choices and the writer's claim, and later the brief conclusion, signing off with a vote of confidence for the position taken (*If that isn't enough to convince you that the Nebra disk was in the bronze age, then I don't know what is*).

**Evidence and Elaboration - Score Point: 1**

The response provides uneven, cursory support for the idea that the Nebra Sky Disk is from the Bronze Age with partial use of sources, facts and details (*Disk was found in a sash of bronze weapons*) and no use of cited sources. Some of the support is relevant, but without citation or other clear reference to the text, the response is ineligible for a higher score. Elaborative techniques are ineffective.

**Conventions - Score Point: 1**

The response demonstrates a partial command of basic conventions. Various errors in sentence formation and punctuation are present (*you might know of curtain ages such as the bronze age and the iron age, there was an artifact called the Nebra disk*). Capitalization is mostly correct, but for the error of "bronze age" for Bronze Age. Spelling has some minor errors.

## Grade 8

Student-11

Score Point 1/2/2

The Nebra Sky Disk was from the Bronze Age. In Source 2 paragraph 2, two men, Henry Westphal and Mario Renner, claim to have found it among a stash of buried Bronze Age weapons and bracelets. In Source 3, paragraph 2 it was reclaimed by looters in 2002 supposedly as part of a Bronze Age stash of weapons. In Source 3 paragraph 3 they sent soil samples that they claimed were from the area where the looters found the disk.

<b>Grade 8</b>
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**Student-11 Annotation****Score Point 1/2/2****Purpose, Focus, and Organization - Score Point: 1**

This response is somewhat sustained within the purpose, audience and task of discussing whether the Nebra Sky Disk came from the Bronze Age or from the Iron Age. The claim is clearly stated in the first sentence (*The Nebra Sky Disk was from the Bronze Age*).

Transitions are not used, so it makes it harder to get a sense of an organizational plan, making the connections between ideas hard to draw (*In Source 2; In Source 3*). The response also lacks a counterclaim, keeping PFO at a score point 1.

**Evidence and Elaboration - Score Point: 2**

The response provides uneven, cursory support for the writer's claim that includes partial use of cited sources, facts, and details. Evidence from cited sources is weakly integrated (*In Source 3, paragraph 2, it was reclaimed by looters*). Facts from the text are used (*In Source 3, paragraph 3 they sent soil samples that they claimed were from the area where the looters found the disk*), and they begin to support the writer's claim, but elaboration of those facts is mostly absent. Ideas are expressed in repetitive sentences.

**Conventions - Score Point: 2**

The response demonstrates an adequate command of basic conventions. Usage is consistently proper, as is spelling and capitalization. There are a few missing commas, but no systematic pattern of errors is demonstrated.

## Grade 8

Student-12

Score Point 1/2/2

The Nebra Sky is the first illustration of the night sky. Or as some believe it to be. The Nebra sky was founded by two looter who were treasure hunting in Germany. They claim that it was found with weapons from the bronze age. Concluding that it indeed is from the bronze age.

The Nebra Sky is a round disk made from metal it has a diameter of 12 inches. It is made of bronze and is decorated with what appears to be gold stars and shapes that are believed to be the moon and sun. In "A Tale of Two Ages" it's stated that the looters found the artifact in 2002. They dug it up Nebra, Germany.

In "The discovery of the Nebra sky"



## Grade 8

Student-12

Score Point 1/2/2

were told that Germany has a law mandating that all artifacts found belong to the government. So if you can't keep these artifacts and you can't sell them and there's no reward for finding them then why would these men lie about where they found the Nebraska key. The two of them also swore under oath in court. If they were to lie this could be punishable by arrest. So why would they lie and risk going to jail for artifact they won't even get any money out of it that they most likely know little about.

Maybe they did lie but why?  
 To increase the value of said artifact?  
 The Nebraska key is also similar to art from the iron age, and there was no one there

## Grade 8

Student-12

Score Point 1/2/2

besides them so what's to stop them from lying.

Although the artifact's age isn't determined there is recurring possible evidence that it is in deed such as the fact that it was claimed to be found with weapons from the bronze age. Maybe we'll never be sure but theres always a chance that it really is The first illustration of the night sky.

## Grade 8

## Student-12 Annotation

## Score Point 1/2/2

**Purpose, Focus, and Organization - Score Point: 1**

This response is not clearly sustained within the purpose, audience and task of discussing whether the Nebra Sky Disk came from the Bronze Age or from the Iron Age. The writer summarizes and analyzes some of the points on both sides of the issue but doesn't take a position (*Maybe we'll never be sure but theres always a chance that it really is The first illustration of the night sky*). Since the writer is asked to support a claim about whether the Nebra Sky Disk was made in the Bronze Age or the Iron Age, it is necessary to make that claim in order to show appropriate awareness of the persuasive task. Without that task being clear, the PFO score is 1.

**Evidence and Elaboration - Score Point: 2**

The response provides uneven, cursory support for the writer's discussion that includes partial use of cited sources, facts, and details. Evidence from cited sources is weakly integrated (*In "A Tale of Two Ages" its stated that looters found the artifact in 2002*). Facts from the text are used (*In "The Discovery of the Nebra Sky" we're told that Gemany has a law mandating that all artifact found belong to the government*), but without a clear claim to support, the elaboration falls short of its purpose.

**Conventions - Score Point: 2**

The response demonstrates an adequate command of basic conventions. There are a couple missing apostrophes (*were* [for: *we're*]; *cant*), but no systematic pattern of errors is displayed. In terms of usage, there are a couple minor errors (*...it is decorate with what appears to be gold stars*). Capitalization, sentence formation and spelling are all adequate.

## Grade 8

Student-13

Score Point 1/2/2

The Nebra Sky Disk is an ancient metal disk found in Nebra, Germany. It is round with a 12 inch diameter, it has what is believed to be a sun and a moon on it. It was found in 2002 by looters and may be the oldest object to show the night sky. But, the age of this disk is debated.  
(A Tale of Two Ages)

Majority of archaeologists believe the Nebra Sky Disk is from the Bronze Age, but some agree that it is from the Iron Age. People believe the disk is from the Bronze Age because the other objects it was found with were from the Bronze Age. Scientists sampled the dirt where the disk was found and there was the same metal traces from the disk in it. This led them to believe the disk remained there for

## Grade 8

Student-13

Score Point 1/2/2

thousands of years. These are the main points to support this disk is from the Bronze Age.

(A Tale of Two Ages)

People questioned whether the disk was really found amongst the other Bronze Age artifacts. The older an artifact is, the more expensive it is. The men who found the disk, could've put it with older artifacts to make more money. These arguments can be shut down with some rules. When someone finds an artifact they cannot sell it or keep it, so these men would have no reason to lie about where they found it. And if they lied, it would have gotten them arrested.

(The Discovery of the Nebra Sky Disk)

Few archaeologists believe the Nebra Sky Disk was from the Iron Age because the design on it

**Grade 8****Student-13****Score Point 1/2/2**

was similar to those from the Iron Age. Swords and other objects from the Iron Age were often decorated with stars and moons, similar to the disk. A newer soil analysis and elements in the disc show that the artifact could've been originally buried at a different location and then moved to a new one.



**Grade 8****Student-13 Annotation****Score Point 1/2/2****Purpose, Focus, and Organization - Score Point: 1**

This response does not make a claim as to whether the Nebra Sky Disk came from the Bronze Age or from the Iron Age. The writer looks at points from both sides of the argument, finding support for both sides, while never coming to a clear claim (*This topic should be studied more for people to say which age the disk is from. For now, it shall be left unknown*). There is an organizational strategy to the discussion itself, but without a clear claim, the response is a score point 1.

**Evidence and Elaboration - Score Point: 2**

The response provides uneven, cursory support for the writer's discussion that includes partial use of cited sources, facts, and details. Evidence from cited sources is weakly integrated (*But, the age of this disk is debated [A Tale of Two Ages]*) and ineffectively elaborated in that there is no claim to support. Expression of ideas is adequate, with some precise and some general language.

**Conventions - Score Point: 2**

The response demonstrates an adequate command of basic conventions. Apart from a couple minor punctuation and sentence formation errors, conventions are generally correct.

## Grade 8

Student-14

Score Point 1/1/2

The Nebra Sky Disk is an ancient artifact that is 12 inches in diameter and made of bronze. It's decorated with what seems to be a sun a moon surrounded by stars. Scientist are still not sure if the item is from the Bronze age or the Iron age. As more and more evidence is uncovered, it is clear to see that The Nebra Sky Disk is from the Bronze age.

To start off, the first reason the Nebra sky disk is from the Bronze age is because of where it was found.

<b>Grade 8</b>
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**Student-14 Annotation****Score Point 1/1/2****Purpose, Focus, and Organization - Score Point: 1**

This response addresses the topic of the Nebra Sky Disk, whether it's from the Bronze Age or the Iron Age. The claim that it is from the Bronze Age is presented, but there is not enough follow-up to show further awareness of the task. Organizationally, a structure appears to start with a claim and the beginning of a discussion, but then abruptly stops. Without anything more, there is no organizational plan to follow.

**Evidence and Elaboration - Score Point: 1**

The response provides minimal support for the discussion about the Nebra Sky Disk and which age it is from (*It's decorated with what seems to be a sun a moon surrounded by stars*), with no use of cited sources. Expression of ideas is not unclear or confusing, but without reference to the text or additional elaboration, the response cannot receive a higher score.

**Conventions - Score Point: 2**

The response demonstrates an adequate command of basic conventions. Few errors are present overall; capitalization, sentence formation and spelling are all consistently correct. A couple of usage errors occur, but no systematic pattern is demonstrated.

## Grade 8

Student-15

Score Point 1/1/2

The Nebrasky Disk is a round metal disk. 12 inches in diameter, made of bronze. It appears to have gold stars, with two shapes to be belived a moon and a sun. The Nebrasky Disk was discovered by looters during 2002. They claim to have found the disk in Nebrasky Germany. It was found by looters, theafes named, Henry Westphal and Mario Renner. Scientists think the Nebrasky Disk is 3,600 years old. If the disk is it would be the oldest known object to represent the sky.

Scientists think the Nebrasky Disk is from the bronze age. Because the disk is made of

## Grade 8

Student-15

Score Point 1/1/2

bronze. Some scientists think the Nebra Sky Disk is also from the Iron Age. Because it was dug up with some gold and iron in the dirt.

The two looters who found the Nebra Sky Disk weren't originally looking for it. The looters just happened to find it when searching for some objects to sell with a metal detector.

The Nebra Sky Disk is a very old object to represent the sky. Scientists will soon know what age the disk came from. But for now it will be held in a museum.

<b>Grade 8</b>
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**Student-15 Annotation****Score Point 1/1/2****Purpose, Focus, and Organization - Score Point: 1**

This response addresses the topic of the Nebra Sky Disk in an informative fashion. The writer does not make a claim about the disk being from the Bronze Age or the Iron Age; rather the writer provides more of a summary of some of the passages' relevant points (*The Nebra Disk was discovered by looters during 2002. They claim to have found it in Nebra, Germany*). Without a claim, the response - which is more informative than persuasive - earns a score point 1 in PFO.

**Evidence and Elaboration - Score Point: 1**

The response provides minimal support for the discussion about the Nebra Sky Disk (*It was found by looters/ thietfes named, Henry Westphal and Mario Renner*), with no use of cited sources. Expression of ideas is not unclear or confusing, but without reference to the text or additional elaboration, the response cannot receive a higher score.

**Conventions - Score Point: 2**

The response demonstrates an adequate command of basic conventions. There are a few spelling errors (*thietfs, respresed, origonley*). For punctuation, there are a couple missing commas. In neither spelling nor punctuation is there a systematic pattern of errors. Capitalization, sentence structure and usage are generally correct.



## Grade 8

Student-16

Score Point 1/1/1

I will be talking about the Nebra Sky Disk. The Nebra sky disk was dug up in (2002 from looters) in Nebra Germany (with weapons and bracelets). It was believed that it was from the bronze age. But it was not of iron yet and it was decorated with moon and sun.

<b>Grade 8</b>
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**Student-16 Annotation****Score Point 1/1/1****Purpose, Focus, and Organization - Score Point: 1**

This response discusses the Nebra Sky Disk but doesn't make a firm claim about it (*It was blived that it was from the bronse age*). Although the writer begins to describe a couple details concerning the disk (*The Nebra Sky disk was dug up in [2002 from looters] in Nebra Germany*), the response is too brief to demonstrate knowledge of focus or organization. Opposing claims are not mentioned, and transitional strategies are minimal (*But it wasient*).

**Evidence and Elaboration - Score Point: 1**

The response provides minimal support for the discussion about the Nebra Sky Disk that includes little use of facts and details (*it was decorated with moon and sun*) and no use of cited sources. Expression of ideas is vague and slightly confusing (*The Nebra Sky disk was dug up in [2002 from looters] in Nebra Germany [with weapons and bracelets]*) while vocabulary and sentence structure are limited.

**Conventions - Score Point: 1**

The response demonstrates partial control of basic conventions. Sentences in much of the response do have correct capitalization. Errors do occur in punctuation, with some overuse of parentheses; however, other punctuation is used correctly. Spelling is mostly controlled, although there are a few clear errors (*blived, bronse, ofishol*).

## Grade 8

Student-17

Score Point 1/1/1

I think it was in the Broze Age be cause.  
the sware that the will not sell it  
and the did so it mast Be from some ware  
alls and the did not sure them and i Donwt  
think the will do anething  
a Bount it So i think that  
the got luke and the got e  
a lote o/e money.

<b>Grade 8</b>
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**Student-17 Annotation****Score Point 1/1/1****Purpose, Focus, and Organization - Score Point: 1**

This brief response is related to the topic and takes a position that the Nebra Sky Disk is from the Bronze Age (*I think it was in the Broze Age...*), but demonstrates little to no awareness of the purpose, audience, and task. There is no discernible organizational structure, resulting in a couple difficult-to-follow reasons.

**Evidence and Elaboration - Score Point: 1**

The response provides minimal support for the claim that includes little use of facts and details (*the sware that the will not sall it*) and no use of cited sources. Expression of ideas is unclear and confusing (*So i think that the gote luke and the gote a lote ove money*).

**Conventions - Score Point: 1**

The response demonstrates a partial command of conventions with various errors in usage (*the sware that the will not sall it and the DiD so it mast Be from some ware alls*), punctuation and spelling (*Broze, sware, sall, mast, Donunt, aenthing, aBount, gote, luke, ove*). Sentence formation is challenged.